

In March of 2000, Mr. Chen Shui-bian of the Democrat Progressive Party was elected in the second direct presidential election, marking the first ever change of political parties for the Taiwan presidency.

Since Mr. Chen's inauguration on May 20 of this year, the people of Taiwan have witnessed a peaceful transition of power as a result of a democratic election.

Taiwan is one of the most successful examples of economic development in the 21st century, and is now the world's 19th largest economy in terms of gross national product, and the 14th most important trading country where the United States is concerned. It is also a major investor in East Asia, and possesses the third largest amount of foreign reserves in the world.

Taiwan is also a humanitarian-minded country. Over the years, it has sent over 10,000 experts to train technicians all over the world, especially in countries of Asia, the South Pacific, Latin America, and Africa to help develop agriculture, fisheries, livestock industries, and so on.

It also has provided billions of U.S. dollars in disaster relief throughout the world, including in China over the past several years, and has responded to the United Nations appeals for emergency relief and rehabilitation assistance to countries suffering from natural disasters and wars.

Currently, Taiwan contributes capital to regional development programs throughout international financial institutions, such as the Asian Development Bank, the Central American Bank for Economic Integration, the InterAmerican Development Bank, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Taiwan is fully committed to observing the premise of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to its integration into international human rights systems, spearheaded by the United Nations.

It is for that reason, Mr. Speaker, that this resolution is here before us. Taiwan's quest for self-determination is something that the United States of America has traditionally and consistently supported. That support and that goal of self-determination is critical as the world watches a truly democratic and economic success story unfolding before our very eyes in Taiwan.

It is at this point in time that I urge my colleagues to adopt this resolution which I have introduced to once again restate our support and our commitment to the progress of democracy, the progress of free markets, the progress of a pro-American attitude and sentiment that we see in Taiwan today that is important not only for freedom-loving people in Taiwan, but also important for America's national and strategic interests, as well.

I might also add, Mr. Speaker, there are millions and millions of Taiwan

immigrants here in the United States whose dream for their homeland is the kind of democracy and liberty which they sought in coming to the United States. It is a dream that is born by the greatness of the United States, and in this way, I think this Congress can play a tremendous role in helping not only Taiwanese Americans but also certainly those who are fighting for freedom and liberty and democracy in Taiwan today have the greatest opportunity to secure their hopes and dreams for themselves and for the world.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 390.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 390, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The title was amended so as to read:

Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress regarding Taiwan's participation in the United Nations and other international organizations.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 608) and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 608

Resolved, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Mr. Martinez of California;

Committee on Armed Services: Mrs. Wilson of New Mexico.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

THE STATE OF AMERICA'S AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. GANSKE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, I first want to thank the Speaker for the hours that he has spent in the chair for these special orders. The gentleman has gone above and beyond the call of duty to be present to enable Members to address the House for these special orders, and I want to personally thank the Chair.

Mr. Speaker, my colleague, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT), and I will be talking about an important issue for the agricultural community. I rise today to address an issue that should concern all Americans, the state of our agricultural economy.

Our farmers and livestock producers are faced with another year of daunting economic prospects. Just yesterday, Mr. Speaker, Agriculture Secretary Glickman reported the U.S. had distributed a record \$28 billion in direct financial assistance to American farmers and ranchers during fiscal year 2000, \$28 billion. This represents up to 50 percent of on-farm cash income. This is significant and should open our eyes to what is happening to American agriculture.

When I listen to farmers in my district, I hear several messages as they try to explain the causes of the economic situation. Many say that we need to address the issue of additional export markets, and I fully agree, and I applaud this Congress for passing monumental trade legislation and opening the door to the potential represented by over 1 billion China citizens when we passed in this Congress permanent normal trade relations with China.

But I also hear from my farmers fears that they are being squeezed out of business by large agricultural corporations. Over the past several years, we have watched as agribusiness after agribusiness has consolidated its operations, merged with its competitors, and created yet an even larger company, dramatically tilting the playing